

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

PREVIEW SELECTION VOCABULARY

The following words appear in the story you are about to read. You may want to become familiar with them before you begin reading.

annihilate (ə-nī'ə-lāt') v.: destroy; wipe out.

*If we continue to destroy the region's forests, we may also **annihilate** the wildlife that lives there.*

expendable (ek-spen'də-bəl) adj.: worth sacrificing to gain an objective.

*The officers regretted the loss but considered the ground troops **expendable**.*

depression (dē-presh'ən) n.: major economic downturn. (*Depression* also means "sadness.")

*A **depression** hit the country, resulting in widespread unemployment and homelessness.*

paradox (par'ə-dāks') n.: something that has or seems to have contradictory qualities.

*The **paradox** is that sometimes we are loneliest when we are in a crowd of people.*

delirium (di-lir'ē-əm) n.: extreme mental disturbance, often accompanied by hallucinations (seeing things that are not there).

*In his **delirium**, he imagined he was seeing giant insects.*

resilient (ri-zil'yənt) adj.: able to return to its original shape quickly after being stretched or compressed; elastic.

*This **resilient** fabric springs back to its original shape no matter how you stretch it.*

remit (ri-mit') v.: return payment.

*The company will **remit**, or return, full payment if the consumers are not satisfied.*

revoke (ri-vōk') v.: cancel; withdraw.

*They can **revoke** your club membership if you fail to attend meetings.*

primeval (prī-mē'vəl) adj.: primitive; of the earliest times.

*In the prehistoric world, giant lizards crashed through the **primeval** forest.*

subliminal (sub-lim'ə-nəl) adj.: below the level of awareness.

*Unaware of the movie's **subliminal** message to buy food, the audience flocked to buy snacks.*

PREFIXES AND WORD ROOTS

A **prefix** is a word part that comes before a word root and affects its meaning. A knowledge of prefixes can help you figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. It can also help you use and understand a wider variety of words. The word *remit*, for example, contains the prefix *re-*, which means "back." It also contains the word root *mit*, which means "send." When you *remit* something, you send it back.

When you come across an unfamiliar word, look for a prefix or word root you recognize to help you figure out the word's meaning.